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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 SANTIAGO 000282

SIPDIS

FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT FROM AMBASSADOR SIMONS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/20/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [CI](#)

SUBJECT: SCENESETTER FOR THE VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN
TO CHILE

Classified By: Ambassador Paul Simons for reasons 1.4(B/D).

[1](#)1. (C) Embassy Santiago warmly welcomes you to Chile -- the first visit to Latin America by a senior Obama White House representative. Your
Chile: A Leader in Latin America and Beyond

[1](#)2. (C) The Bachelet administration is eager to establish a solid relationship with the Obama team Chileans see themselves, along with Brazil
border with Chile.

[1](#)3. (C) The Bachelet administration has responded effectively to the global financial crisis, drawing down on its sovereign wealth fund to fine

[1](#)4. (C) One of our top objectives for Chile has been to expand its leadership role in Latin America and beyond the hemisphere -- drawing on di

[1](#)5. (C) Along with many other Latin leaders, President Bachelet would welcome a change in U.S. policy toward Cuba. She coordinates with OAS Se
Chile Today

[1](#)6. (C) Michelle Bachelet -- Chile's first female President Socialist Party, Bachelet is the fourth consecutive president from the center-left
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fond of the United States, having attended school in Maryland when her father was assigned to the Chilean Embassy in Washington in the 1960s.

[1](#)7. (SBU) With high approval ratings (nearly 60%), President Bachelet takes pride in her administration's sound management of the economy and

[1](#)8. (C) In a cabinet shuffle earlier this month, President Bachelet announced a new Foreign Minister who is a well known friend of the United

[1](#)9. (C) Chileans intently observed the U.S. election process and are preparing for their own presidential and parliamentary elections in Decen
A Strong and Dynamic Bilateral Relationship

[1](#)10. (C) The solid U.S.-Chile relationship has expanded notably to take on 21st century challenges: innovation, education, technology, energ

[1](#)11. (C) The U.S. is Chile's largest trading partner, with bilateral trade expanding by more than 200% (approaching \$20 billion) since our bil

[1](#)12. (C) Like President Obama, Bachelet sees developing clean energy as a top priority. We expect strong Chilean support for a Summit of the

[1](#)13. (SBU) Educational improvement has been a keystone of the Bachelet administration, and an area of strong bilateral cooperation. We have e

[1](#)14. (SBU) The new Chile-California Partnership for the 21st Century, launched by President Bachelet and Governor Schwarzenegger in June 2008,

[1](#)15. (C) Chile and the U.S. have a uniquely strong military to military relationship characterized by frequent joint exercises, officer exchar
A Timely Visit

[1](#)16. (C) Your trip to Chile will be seen here as exceptionally timely and important. At the summit, leaders from five South American countrie
SIMONS